CNVBASIC/CMD is a program which will aid in transferring TRS-80 Model I/III BASIC programs to MS-DOS, CP/M, or TRS-80 Model 4. The program reads a file with BASIC keywords stored as tokens, and produces an ASCII file with spaces inserted. After actually transfering the file, it can be loaded and usually run directly.

NOTE: If using this program with SuperCross, you should run this program FIRST, and then use SuperCross to transfer the new ASCII file.

Installation

The program is supplied on a data disk. The Model I/III version is supplied on a single-density data disk, and the Model 4 version is supplied on a double-density data disk. Model III TRSDOS users should use the CONVERT command to transfer the program to a system disk.

Using CNVBASIC

In order to use the program, type CNVBASIC from DOS Ready. Two optional parameters are available for conversions to Model 4 (TRSDOS 6) BASIC or CP/M BASIC. Use "T" for TRSDOS 6 or "C" for CP/M. The default is to MS-DOS type BASIC.

Examples:

CNVBASIC - convert a program for MS-DOS
CNVBASIC (T) - convert a program for TRSDOS 6-Mod 4
CNVBASIC (C) - convert a program for CP/M

NOTE: NewDOS/80 users must type CNVBASIC/MS, CNVBASIC/T, or CNVBASIC/C (NewDOS/80 does not seem to have TRSDOS compatable parameter parsing).

In each case, you will be prompted:

Source filespec ?

Type in the name of your program, which should be on a disk readable to your DOS (you may need to use the CONV or CONVERT utility of your DOS). The program will immediately be checked to insure it is compatable. If the message "Incompatable Source!" is displayed, be sure your file is NOT saved in the ASCII format. This can be corrected by issuing a LOAD and then a SAVE command (without ,A). Also, be sure it is a Model I/III (not Model 4) BASIC program!

The program will the prompt for the new file to be created:

Destination filespec ?

Type in a different name - we suggest using /ASC for "ASCII." The program will immediately begin converting the file. When CNVBASIC is done, you are ready to transfer the new program on diskette or by RS-232 (it is a pure ASCII file). For best results, LOAD and SAVE the program once with the new BASIC. This will result in a new compressed format with keywords stored as tokens.

The main changes made will be to expand the keyword tokens into ASCII format, adding spaces where applicable. Linefeeds will be removed, since they are not allowed on most other systems.

Possible Errors

Conversion of simple BASIC programs should be automatic, but there are some potential problems which may occur. They are listed below, and should be corrected manually with the new BASIC.

1) ASCII program lines are limited in length to a value less than compressed lines. Inserting spaces may also increase the length of the line. Such lines will be truncated to about 250 characters with :REM!! added to the end of the line for easy searching. You may load the new file into your word processor if you wish, and do a search for ":REM!!" to see where any of the "flagged" lines might be.

2) PRINT @ locations will be modified as follows: There can be no space or one space between "PRINT" and "@", followed by any number of spaces and a number from 0-1023. Lines with PRINT @ variable or PRINT @ expression will require modification, as will multiple @s (allowed on the Model III). The default change will be to the MS-DOS LOCATE command, with a switch to specify CP/M or TRSDOS (Model 4). The CP/M sequence, which may or may not work, is PRINT CHR$(27);"=";CHR$(x+32);CHR$(y+32), while TRSDOS 6 (Model 4) uses a variance of PRINT @.

3) Conditionals are not allowed without THEN except in special cases, and spaces are not added in this area. For example, the following is valid in Model I/III BASIC:

10 INPUTA$:IFA$="END"END

This line will be converted to the following:

10 INPUT A$:IF A$="END"END

The line must be corrected to read as follows:

10 INPUT A$:IF A$="END" THEN END

4) The following keywords will not be changed, but may need to be adjusted. Some have no equivalent outside of TRS-80 BASIC, while some operate differently. These lines will have :REM!! added to the end for easy searching.

SYSTEM/CLOAD/CSAVE	Used for tape
RESET/SET/POINT	Used for graphics
CMD (changed to SYSTEM)	Used for DOS
RND	Used for random #
OUT/INP	Used for ports
POKE/PEEK	Used for memory
ERR	Used for errors

5) Filespecs, used in RUN, OPEN, LOAD, MERGE, & KILL, may require changes for MS-DOS and CP/M systems ("filename/EXT.password:D" to "D:filename.EXT").

6) Characters other than ASCII may not display properly on other systems.